

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 266

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

USCUSTOMS DEPT OF TREASURY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJ: ANDEAN REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE, LIMA, MAY 17-19

1. SUMMARY: CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY NARCOTICS CONTROL REPRESENTATIVES OF BOLIVIA, ECUADOR, COLOMBIA, PERU AND U.S. AND HOSTED BY PERUVIAN INVESTIGATIVE POLICY (PIP) PROVED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN TERMS OF PROMOTING CLOSER REGIONAL CONTACTS AND UNDERSTANDING IN NARCOTICS CONTROL FIELD. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS, WHILE NOT AS PROJECT ORIENTED AS DESIRED, NONETHELESS PROVIDE GOOD BASIS FOR PROMOTING FUTURE COOPERATION, PARTICULARLY IN INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGE AND INTERDICTION EFFORTS. EMBASSY SUGGESTS INFO ADDRESSEES FOLLOW UP ON CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUPPORT MOMENTUM GENERATED BY CONFERENCE AND S/NM SEND NOTE OF THANKS TO PIP FOR EXCELLENT LOGISTICAL SUPPORT.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE FIRST ANDEAN REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE, HOSTED BY THE PERUVIAN INVESTIGATIVE POLICE (PIP), WAS HELD IN SANTA
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MARIA, A BEACH COMMUNITY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF LIMA, MAY 17-19, 1978. ATTENDING WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF NARCOTICS CONTROL ORGANIZATIONS FROM BOLIVIA, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, PERU AND THE UNITED STATES. APPROXIMATELY 35 PERSONS PARTICIPATED IN THE CONFERENCE, INCLUDING 13 OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE OTHER THREE SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES. U.S. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT (S/NM), DEA

HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, AND U.S. CUSTOMS. DEA SAIC'S FROM EACH OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES ALSO ATTENDED, AS DID REPRESENTATIVES INVITED BY THE PIP FROM VARIOUS PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WITH AN INTEREST IN NARCOTICS MATTERS (CUSTOMS, THE GUARDIA CIVIL, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE).

2. ON THE MORNING OF MAY 17, THE DELEGATES WERE WELCOMED AT A BREAKFAST HOSTED BY THE PIP. THE CONFERENCE WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED BY THE NEW PERUVIAN MINISTER OF INTERIOR, GEN FERNANDO VELIT SABATTINI, IN A VERY IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY. AMBASSADORS OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES ATTENDED THE OPENING CEREMONY. AFTER THE OPENING CEREMONIES, PARTICIPANTS ELECTED PIP INSPECTOR FILIBERTO UGARTE GAMARRA PRESIDENTE OF THE CONFERENCE AND DR. JAIME SERRANO RUEDO, COLOMBIAN ATTORNEY GENERAL, AS VICE-PRESIDENT. AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO FORM WORKING COMMITTEES IN THREE AREAS SOCIAL, OPERATIONAL AND LEGAL. THE WORKING COMMITTEES WERE GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION AND THE PARTICIPANTS WERE PERMITTED TO CHOOSE IN WHICH WORKING COMMITTEE THEY WISHED TO PARTICIPATE. IT WAS AGREED THAT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF CONSENSUS BY THE PARTICIPANTS. AFTER FORMING THE WORKING COMMITTEES AND INITIATING DISCUSSIONS, THE CONFERENCE HEARD A COUNTRY NARCOTIC SITUATION REPORT FROM EACH PARTICIPATING COUNTRY.

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3. ON MA 18, THE WORKING COMMITTEES FORMED ON THE PREVIOUS DAY CONTINUED THEIR DISCUSSIONS. THE AGREEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF EACH WORKING COMMITTEE WERE THEN PRESENTED TO THE CONFERENCE OFFICIALS. IN THE EVENING, THE U.S. CHARGE HOSTED A RECEPTION FOR THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS.

4. ON MAY 19, THE DELEGATES RECONVENED AND WERE GIVEN COPIES OF THE AGREEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF EACH WORKING COMMITTEE. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DEBATE OVER THE WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS, THE DELEGATES APPROVED THE FOLLOWING FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

SOCIAL AREA:

- TO EFFICIENTLY APPLY ANY AGREEMENTS MADE IN THE CONFERENCE, THE CUSTOMS SERVICE OF EACH COUNTRY SHOULD PARTICIPATE;

- ON ALL BORDERS, MIXED AND INTEGRATED AGENCIES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO FACILITATE THE TIMELY INTERCHANGE OF NARCOTIC INFORMATION AND, IF NEEDED, THE INTERCHANGE OF EVIDENCE;

- CUSTOMS AGENCIES OF EACH COUNTRY SHOULD ASSIGN A HIGH PRIORITY

TO ANTI-NARCOTIC ACTIVITIES;

- MUTUAL HELP AND COOPERATION OF CUSTOMS AGENCIES SHOULD BE AIMED PRINCIPALLY AT THE BORDER AREAS;

- CONTINUED INTERCHANGE OF OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL SHOULD TAKE PLACE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE;

- PROMOTE STUDIES IN THE SUBREGIONAL AREA REGARDING DRUG USE IN ORDER TO PLAN PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS, EDUCATION, TREATMENT AND SOCIAL REHABILITATION;

- ESTABLISH SIMILAR PILOT CENTERS OF REHABILITATION IN EACH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRY;

- DEVELOP PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR THE ORIENTATION AND EDUCATION OF THE COMMUNITY ABOUT DRUG USE;

- EXCHANGE INFORMATION BETWEEN PERU AND BOLIVIA CONCERNING THE HARVESTING OF COCA;

- RECOMMEND SUBSTITUTION AND/OR ERADICATION OF COCA ALONG WITH PROGRAMS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT;

- ESTABLISH AGREEMENTS BETWEEN PERU AND BOLIVIA FOR PARALLEL PROGRAMS TO REDUCE COCA CULTIVATION IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL TREATIES;

- INCREASE NATIONAL BUDGETS FOR PROGRAMS AGAINST DRUG TRAFFIC;

- FUNDS OF THOSE CAPTURED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING SHOULD BE USED FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS;

- PERIODIC REUNIONS OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ON THE BORDERS SHOULD BE HELD, AS NEEDED, TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION, EVALUATE ACTIVITIES OF THE PRIOR PERIOD, AND DEVELOP FUTURE PLANS.

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OPERATIONAL AREA:

- EXCHANGE INFORMATION CONCERNING ILLICIT TRAFFIC AND CONSUMPTION
OF DRUGS THROUGH A REGIONAL NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE OFFICE, TO
BE LOCATED IN LIMA AND ADMINISTERED BY THE PIP;

- INTENSIFY JOINT BORDER OPERATIONS;

- RECOMMEND COLOMBIA'S TIMELY INTEGRATION INTO THE REGIONAL TELEX
NETWORK ESTABLISHED FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING
ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC;

- INITIATE OPERATIONS AGREEMENTS TO CARRY OUT THE ABOVE
RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE END OF JUNE, 1978;

LEGAL AREA:

- CARRY OUT DECEMBER 1971 RECOMMENDATION OF THE MINISTERS OF
HEALTH OF THE ANDEAN REGION THAT NATIONAL COMMITTEES BE
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CREATED TO INCLUDE ALL SECTORS WITH RESPONSIBILITY IN THE
DRUG CONTROL FIELD;

- ESTABLISH NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEES OF THE POLICE
AUTHORITIES IN THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED;

- SUGGEST THAT IN THE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS OF THE REGION,
POLICE ATTACHES BE ESTABLISHED WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON NARCOTICS;

- RECOMMEND THE REFORM OF THE EXTRADITION SYSTEMS IN THE

REGION FOR ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING CASES.

5. THE CLOSING CEREMONY WAS ADDRESSED BY THE PERUVIAN VICE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, GEN MANUEL ZEGARRA, AFTER WHICH THE PIP HOSTED A FAREWELL LUNCHEON FOR THE DELEGATES.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CONFERENCE RESULTS IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC REGIONAL COOPERATIVE PROJECTS MIGHT NOT BE AS GREAT AS WE MIGHT HAVE HOPED, THE DELEGATES HAD MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR OPEN AND FRANK DISCUSSION WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS; THESE PERSONAL CONTACTS SHOULD MAKE REGIONAL COOPERATION MUCH EASIER IN THE FUTURE, PARTICULARLY IN ASSISTING EACH OTHER IN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS, AND IN SOME CASES HAVE ALREADY BORNE FRUIT. AS AN EXAMPLE, FOR THE FIRST TIME PERU ALLOWED A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF NARCOTICS (5 KILOGRAMS) TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY ON A CONTROLLED DELIVERY TO COLOMBIA. COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES COOPERATED, ALLOWING THE NARCOTIC TO ENTER AND BE DELIVERED TO THE RECIPIENT. THE NARCOTICS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY SEIZED AND A SIGNIFICANT VIOLATOR ARRESTED. ALSO, PRIOR TO DEPARTING LIMA, BOLIVIAN REPRESENTATIVE COL. APARICIO AND PERUVIAN AUTHORITIES AGREED TO MEET ON JULY 20, IN LIMA TO STUDY PROGRAMS AND INTERCHANGE INFORMATION CONCERNING THEIR MUTUAL PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY THE PRODUCTION OF THE COCA LEAF AND ITS ERADICATION.

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7. THE PIP IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR ITS EFFICIENT AND ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR THE CONFERENCE (S/NM MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER LETTER TO THIS EFFECT TO PIP DIRECTOR LEZAMA); CONFERENCE ALSO SERVED TO INCREASE GOP AWARENESS OF ITS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE NARCOTICS CONTROL FIELD IN THE ANDEAN REGION. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. MISSIONS IN ECUADOR, BOLIVIA AND COLOMBIA FOLLOW UP ON CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS WITH HOST COUNTERPARTS TO PROMOTE INCREASED COOPERATION IN THE CROP CONTROL AND INTERDICTION AREAS. TEXTS OF CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT (S/NM), DEA AND INFO ADDRESSEES.

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